



Year-Round Hunter Education

Even though fall hunting seasons are months away; now is the time to take a hunter education course to ensure you gain certification for this fall. Hundreds of hunter education courses are offered year-round, but courses held right before the popular hunting seasons fill up fast. **Don't wait**—if you or someone you know needs hunter education, **sign up today!** Here are the details.

If you plan to hunt during a Missouri firearms season or you are acting as an adult mentor, you must first complete an approved hunter education certification program and provide proof of completion **unless**:

- You are 15 years or younger and will be hunting with a properly permitted adult mentor 18 years of age or older.
- You were born before January 1, 1967.
- You enrolled in a hunter education course but failed to pass the certification tests due to a developmental disability, and you received an exemption from MDC's Protection Division.
- You are 16 or older and have purchased an Apprentice Hunter Authorization and will be hunting with a properly permitted adult mentor 18 years of age or older.
- You are the landowner or lessee hunting on land you own or upon which you reside.

The Missouri hunter education course has two parts: knowledge and skills. You must complete and pass both to earn your certificate.

Part one: Knowledge

Choose one of three convenient ways to complete the knowledge portion.

1. Online: You must complete all the chapter reviews in order to receive your skills-session qualifier certificate, which you must show (bring a printed copy or display the PDF on your mobile device) to enter the skills session in part two.
- OR
2. Self-study guide: Order a study guide online or pick one up at an MDC office. Study the illustrated guide, complete all chapter reviews, and present your completed guide at the skills session in part two.
- OR
3. Classroom session: Register and attend a four-hour classroom session featuring lecture and videos. Complete all student manual chapter review questions and present your completed guide at the skills session in part two.

Part two: Skills

No matter how you complete the knowledge part, you must register for and attend a four-hour skills session. You must also bring your skills session qualifier certificate or study guide with all chapters completed to gain entry. The skills session consists of hands on stations and includes a mandatory 35-question final exam. You must be 11 years old to attend a skills session and receive certification.

BY: Scott Sarantakis, outdoor skills specialist

Visit <http://mdc.mo.gov/hunting-trapping/hunter-education-and-safety> to get started.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31
Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Women's Beginning Handgun

July 2 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

Women only, Ages 16 and up)

This program will include classroom instruction on handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. Although equipment and ammo will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammo to the live-fire session. An adult must accompany anyone under age 18. (Registration begins June 2.)

Basic Shotgun Shell Reloading

July 7 • Tuesday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Reloading is a hobby that can bring lots of personal and family satisfaction and enjoyment – it can also save you money! Each student is taught reloading safety; shotgun shell components; using the reloading manual and reloading data; equipment; and the shotgun shell reloading process. This beginning class is hands-on and you will actually load high quality shells. Everything (equipment, components, tools, etc.) is supplied. (Registration begins June 7.)

Trigger Time – Handgun

July 18 • Saturday • 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is “hands-on” personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom time, just expert instruction from our staff. Participants must bring their own handguns and ammunition, at least 100 rounds. This program is for experienced handgun shooters and not appropriate for beginners. (Registration begins June 18.)

Youth Shooting Sports Camp

July 20 – 22 • Monday – Wednesday • 9 a.m. – noon

(Ages 11 – 16)

This program is designed to introduce young shooters to the rifle, handgun, and shotgun. Students will become familiar with each type of firearm and have extensive time on the range with each. All materials and safety equipment will be provided as well as qualified instructors. Information presented will include emphasis on safety and range rules plus opportunities for further training, certifications, or available competitions. (Registration begins June 20.)

Beginning Youth .22 Rifle

July 25 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9 – 15)

Interested young people who are first-time rifle shooters are invited to participate in this session on learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 caliber rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Registration begins June 25.)

Beginning Archery

July 27 • Monday • 6 – 7:30 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the Schools Program (MoNASP). This is a fun program for the family. All equipment will be provided. (Registration begins June 27.)

Conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center is closed for a total renovation.

Two new webcams allow viewers to monitor progress of the new Busch Shooting Range

MDC's Design and Development Division has installed two webcams on the construction site and our web team has created a link so you can follow new developments as they unfold. Just go to <http://mdc.mo.gov/node/30020>.

The easy-to-navigate control panel allows viewers to choose between the two cameras, zoom in and scroll around the image, enlarge to fill your screen, and even change the date and time of the images displayed. There's also a "time lapse" feature that lets you play an animated view showing progression of the site over time.



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.



Youth Shotgun Camp

July 15 • Wednesday • 9 a.m. – noon

July 16 • Thursday • 9 a.m. – noon.

(Ages 11 – 15)

This camp will introduce students to the basics of shooting a shotgun. The classroom portion will cover safety, shotgun fit, stance, and more. On Thursday we will head outside to pattern and shoot clay birds. Dress for the weather, water will be provided. Not recommended for anyone weighing under 90 lbs. Meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. Must attend Wednesday to participate Thursday. (Reservations begin June 15.)

Basic Shotgun

July 27 • Monday • 6 – 8 p.m.

July 28 • Tuesday • 6 – 8 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Learn the basics of shotgun shooting. The clinic will be held on Monday in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. Tuesday we will head out for some live fire practice. Participants must attend the clinic to participate in live fire. Not recommended for anyone weighing less than 90 lbs. (Reservations begin June 29.)

Basic Archery

July 7 • Tuesday • 6 – 8:30 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. Our instructors will help participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Meet at the August A. Busch Conservation archery range. (Reservations begin April 9.)



Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

You and Me under the Canopy

July 9 • Thursday • 10 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 2 – 6)

Families, meet in the nature center lobby for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. (In case of inclement weather the program will be indoors and shortened.) (Reservations begin June 25.)

Exploring Your Watershed

July 16 • Thursday • 10 a.m. – noon

(Ages 10 and up)

We all live in a watershed and depend on clean water every day, but where does that water come from? Come discover how the water cycle works, what lives in a watershed, and how we fit in this natural system. (Reservations begin July 2.)

Conservation Teens: Hughes Mountain and Elephant Rocks Field Day

July 17 • Friday • 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 13 – 17)

Let’s go explore some unique areas this month. First we’ll visit Hughes Mountain Natural Area, near Irondale, Missouri. We’ll hike to the top of the “mountain” and see ancient igneous rock with unusual hexagonal formations, enjoy the views, and search for glade wildflowers and the elusive collared lizard. After a picnic lunch, we’ll travel to Elephant Rocks State Park to see the giant elephant-shaped granite boulders. Please meet at Powder Valley at 8:30 a.m. and bring a lunch, water, and snacks for the day. Transportation will be provided by MDC staff. (Reservations begin July 3.)

Delightful Deer

July 21 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

It’s exciting to walk in the woods and come across deer. At Powder Valley, the deer are used to being watched. They may let you get close, but it is important to leave them alone. Moms take excellent care of their babies and almost never abandon them. This program explores the hidden lives of deer. Knowledge will make us even more delighted the next time we see deer. (Reservations begin July 8.)

What’s That in My Neighborhood?

July 22 • Wednesday • 10 a.m. – noon

(Ages 4 – 7)

Whoosh... something went flying through the treetops, and something is looking at me from the bushes. What is it? Nothing scary. It is just our wildlife neighbors, going about their business. Let’s learn about some of those furry, feathery, scaly neighbors of ours. We will also take a hike to see if Powder Valley has the same neighbors that we do! (Reservations begin July 8.)

Creek Crawl

July 29 • Wednesday • 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

What lives in a creek and what makes a creek healthy? Let’s find out by poking around the creek at Powder Valley in search of aquatic insects and other invertebrates. The majority of the program will be outside. Please dress for the weather, and wear/bring shoes appropriate for walking through ankle deep water and for hiking on Hickory Ridge trail. (Reservations begin July 15.)

PV Hallway Exhibit Gail Kiel, Watercolor Artist

Gail Kiel is a lifelong resident of Missouri and has always enjoyed nature, gardening, and art. Many of her watercolor paintings reflect our state’s plants, animals, and landscapes.

Gail is a retired nursing educator and lives with her spouse of 50 years in the South County area. She volunteers at her library’s children’s art program.

Bridge maintenance on the Meramec River bridges on I-44 near I-270 will significantly impact traffic flow late spring through summer. You can find weekly lane closures once the project is started by visiting: http://www.modot.org/stlouis/road_construction/weeklyupdate.htm

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

Super Summer Series (Ages 6 and up) 10 – 11 a.m.

Join the fun at our Super Summer Series. Families, scout, and camp groups are welcome. All programs are in the auditorium. (Reservations begin immediately.)

Reptiles Rock

July 1 • Wednesday

July 15 • Wednesday

July 30 • Thursday

Lizards and turtles and snakes. Oh my! What makes an animal a reptile? Find out the answers to this question and touch live reptiles in this fun program.

Mammal Mania

July 2 • Thursday

July 16 • Thursday

July 31 • Friday

That little animal is cute? It may be, but remember it is wild! We will not have live animals, but you will be able to touch mammal pelts and skulls while learning about some of the mammals living in Missouri.

Feathered Friends

July 8 • Wednesday

July 23 • Thursday

Take a close look at a bird's wings, feet, and beak. Learn how these body parts and other adaptations are essential for a bird to survive in the wild!

Nature: Friend or Foe?

July 10 • Friday

July 24 • Friday

Are you leery about going outside for fear of snakes, spiders, or poison ivy? You can easily learn to identify some common outdoor hazards and safely enjoy the great Missouri outdoors.

Programs for Day Care

Bring your day care to the nature center this summer. Call 314-301-1500 for information to schedule a summer program.

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Finding Your Way with Compass and GPS

July 14 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 10 – 16)

Come prepared to learn the essential outdoor skills of navigation using both a compass and GPS. We'll start by navigating through the park with just a compass. Then, you'll set your own course for others to follow. After a lunch break, we'll pursue Geocaching. In a world of smartphones, GPS is used to get us almost any place we want to be. Learn to "cache" as we make and hide our own geocache. Technology takes us most anywhere, yet you might find old school methods are sometimes the most reliable. Participants should bring a sack lunch and water bottle. Dress to be outdoors for the day. Completed waiver must be received before participating. (Reservations begin June 16.)

Woodland Nature Detective: Mini-beast Hunt

July 14 • Tuesday • 1 – 3 p.m.
(Ages 6 – 12)

Be a woodland nature detective. Go on a mini-beast hunt in the woods to see what you can find. Mini-beasts like dark, damp places so we will investigate leaf piles, under logs, and in tiny nooks and crannies, as well as flowers and plants. We will explore leaf litter, sift through soil, peer under rocks, and peep into tree trunks to find all sorts of creepy crawlies. (Reservations run June 12 thru July 12.)

Toddler Teeter in the Forest

July 22 • Wednesday • 10 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 1 – 3)

Let's explore the forest toddler style. We'll teeter in and out of the trees while experiencing surrounding sights, sounds and smells. We are sure not to follow the path. Meet at the JFK Outdoor Classroom and Pavilion in Kennedy Forest. (Reservations begin July 1.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Dove Banding: 101 (at Bellefontaine Conservation Area)

July 8 • Wednesday • 4 – 5:15 p.m. and 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Would you like a hands-on session of dove banding? Banding is an excellent way to monitor bird populations. Knowing how many doves there are helps biologists make decisions which keep wildlife healthy. What are you waiting for? Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. (Call Columbia Bottom for reservations beginning June 24.)

Hopping Homes

July 14 • Tuesday • 12:30 – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

The sounds of summer often feature a chorus of Missouri's frogs and toads. Let's decorate an abode for these vocal amphibians to place in your yard or garden for your own private concert. If time allows, we will venture out on the area to find some of our jumping residents. (Reservations begin July 1.)

Once in a Blue Moon Sunset Walk

July 31 • Friday • 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

The second full moon occurring in a month is commonly called a "blue moon." It happens only every two to three years. On July 31 the sun sets and the blue moon rises within a few minutes of each other. Bring your camera to catch the vivid colors as the sun sets over the prairie. Then we will walk to the Confluence to experience the rising blue moon as it reflects on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Meet at the Slough, parking lot M, about four miles from the front entrance. (Reservations run July 15 thru July 29.)

Save the Dates! Managed Youth Dove Clinic and Hunt

Aug 29 • Saturday • 4 – 6:30 p.m. (Mandatory Clinic)

Sept 5 • Saturday • 1 p.m. – Sunset (Hunt)

(Ages 11 – 15)

On August 29 at Jay Henges Shooting Range, learn about dove biology, hunter safety, and hunting regulations before practicing effective wing shooting with clay birds. After you've attended this mandatory clinic, become Hunter Education certified by September 5th and have a sponsor, you can join our youth dove hunt at Columbia Bottom. To be considered, fill out the application below and send it to the address provided. Bring your shotgun, safety glasses, and hearing protection both days. Don't have a firearm? Some are available for loan. Preference is given to first time applicants. (Applications accepted July 1 to 31.)

Columbia Bottom Youth Dove Hunt Application
801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Do you have access to a shotgun? Yes / No First time applicant? Yes / No

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Aquatic Adventure

July 7 • Tuesday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

What could be more fun on a hot day than finding cool critters in the water? Learn about the food chain in our woodland pond and how we can affect it as we net aquatic animals. Dress for the weather and for getting muddy and wet. All equipment provided. (Reservations begin June 23.)

Woodland Nature Detective: Mini-beast Hunt

July 16 • Thursday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

Be a woodland nature detective! Go on a mini-beast hunt and investigate dark, damp places to see what you find. Explore leaf litter, sift through soil, peer under rocks, and peep into tree trunks to find all sorts of creepy crawlies. (Reservations begin July 2.)

Spider Sniff

July 18 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 p.m.

(Families, Ages 6 and up)

Do you have a nose for nature? Bring a flashlight and your night vision for a walk around August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area in search of these "jewels of the night!" Become an official Spider Sniffer after attending this exciting program where you will learn about Missouri's eight-legged critters and how to sniff them out in the dark! (Reservations begin July 3.)



Hérons and Egrets at Marais Temps Clair

July 25 • Saturday • 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Join us for a 2 ½ mile hike to view the herons and egrets feeding in the Maria Temps Clair marsh. The young have just left the nests so we may see both young and adults feeding together. See some of the showiest members of all wading birds. Learn to identify these birds from a distance through spotting scopes provided. Difficulty = Easy to moderate. (Reservations begin July 10.)

Youth Frog Gigging Clinic

July 31 • Friday • 7 p.m. – midnight.

(Ages 11 – 15 accompanied by adult mentor)

In this clinic, we'll teach you how to hunt frogs at night using a technique called gigging. Gigging for frogs is an entertaining and unique summer pastime that can be enjoyed by all. Learn about frog habitat, the basics of frog gigging, necessary equipment, and gigging rules and regulations. When it gets dark, we'll head out to actually go frog gigging! Afterwards, we'll demonstrate how to clean and cook your frogs, and everyone will get to taste a sample of real frog legs! This event will be held at the BK Leach Memorial Conservation Area in Lincoln County. (Reservations begin July 1 by calling 636-441-4554.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

*We help people
discover nature.*

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Aquatic Adventure

July 2 • Thursday • 9 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

What's more fun on a hot day than finding cool critters in the water? Learn about the food chain in our woodland pond and how we can affect it as we net aquatic animals. Dress for the weather and for getting muddy and wet. All equipment provided. (Reservations begin June 18.)

Woodland Nature Detective: Mini-beast Hunt

July 9 • Thursday • 1 – 3 p.m.

(Ages 6 – 12)

Be a woodland nature detective! Go on a mini-beast hunt and investigate dark, damp places to see what you find. Explore leaf litter, sift through soil, peer under rocks, and peep into tree trunks to find all sorts of creepy crawlies. (Reservations begin June 25.)

Overnight Float on the Meramec River

Aug 7 and 8 • Friday and Saturday

(Ages 10 and up)

Have you floated with our naturalists in previous years, or are you signed up this season? If so, you are eligible to float, fish, camp, swim, explore, and more over two days and one night on the Meramec River near Meramec State Park. The trip is no cost with some meals provided. Attendance by at least one family member is mandatory at a pre-trip meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 7 – 8:30 p.m. at Rockwoods Reservation. Attendance will be determined by random drawing on Friday, July 24. Effort = Strenuous, for maneuvering canoes in slow and swift water, lifting heavy objects, tent camping on gravel bar, and exposure to weather. (Submissions to drawing begin July 10.)

Floating the Meramec River

July 9, 15, 16, 21, 23, 27, or 29 • One trip per family • 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Nothing beats a summer float trip with our naturalists to help you discover nature along the way! Float the Meramec River near Eureka, MO, between Pacific Palisades Conservation Area and Allenton Public Fishing Access. Learn about aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and river conservation. Learn how to protect this precious resource while enjoying summer fun. View photos from past seasons at www.buschrockwoods.smugmug.com

July 9, 15, 16, and 23 – Canoes

July 21 – Kayaks

July 27 and 29 – Women only

Logistics: All participants must be good swimmers with at least one participant over the age of 18 per canoe. Pre-float instructions provided once registered. The float is no cost! However, a \$15 refundable deposit per canoe is required by check to hold reservations. Effort = Moderate to Strenuous, for maneuvering canoes or kayaks in slow and swift water and exposure to weather. (Reservations begin June 25.)